(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the formula for issuing of shares to employees and basis to determine the number of shares to be allotted to each employees?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The SEBI Employee Stock Option (ESOP) Scheme Guideline, 1999 governs the granting of options or shares by companies listed on stock exchanges to their employees.

(b) The features of (ESOP) Scheme *inter alia*, include the following:—

(i) An employee who is not a promoter or part of group is eligible to participate in ESOP.

(ii) No ESOP shall be offered unless the company constitutes a Compensation Committee for administration of ESOP. The Compensation Committee shall formulate the details terms and conditions including quantum of option to be granted per employees, conditions under which option vested may lapse, exercise period, time period within which vested options may be exercised etc.

(iii) No ESOP can be offered unless the shareholders of the company approve the ESOP scheme by passing a special resolution.

(c) Companies have the freedom to determine ESOP pricing subject to con.pliance with the accounting policies specified in the guidelines. The compensation committee of the Board of Directors of the company decides the number of shares/options to be granted per employee and other terms and conditions of the ESOP scheme.

New Gas Pipelines by GAIL

*339. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Limited has laid LPG pipeline from Jamnagar in Gujarat to Loni in UP;

(b) whether GAIL propose to lay two such gas pipelines in South India one from Vizag to Secunderabad in Andhra Pradesh and another from Mangalore in Karnataka to Coimbatore;

(c) if so, by when these pipelines are likely to be in place and functional; and

(d) what will be the capacity of these two pipelines?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) is executing a 1.164 million tonne per annum (MMTPA) throughput capacity Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) pipeline of about 600 Km (approximately) length from Vizag to Secunderabad at an estimated cost of Rs. 490 crore (approximately). The project is scheduled to be completed by August 2003.

GAIL also propose to lay a 670 Kms (approximetely) long LPG pipeline from Mangalore to Coimbatore *via* Mysore at an estimated cost of Rs. 600 crore (approximately) which is scheduled to be completed within 36 months from the date of its approval. The detailed feasibility report for the project has been prepared.

Loans to Agricultural Sector

†*340. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commercial banks have been directed to disburse 18 per cent loan to agriculture under primary sector;

(b) if so, the details of the total amount disbursed as loan to the agricultural sector during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) the percentage of this loan amount against the total loans disbursed during the above years; and

(d) the per cent of branches of these banks working in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the standing guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), all domestic commercial banks are required to lend 18 per cent of their net bank credit to the agricultural sector.

(b) and (c) Data relating to outstanding agricultural advances of public sector and private sector banks as on the last reporting Friday of March 1998 to March 2001 are given below:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.